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EXAMINER

LEE, GILBERT Y

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 9/10/09 has been entered.

2. All claims are drawn to the same invention claimed in the application prior to the entry of the submission under 37 CFR 1.114 and could have been finally rejected on the grounds and art of record in the next Office action if they had been entered in the application prior to entry under 37 CFR 1.114. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL** even though it is a first action after the filing of a request for continued examination and the submission under 37 CFR 1.114. See MPEP § 706.07(b). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of

the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Drawings

3. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the “means for telescoping” in claim 33 must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as “amended.” If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either “Replacement Sheet” or “New Sheet” pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

4. The lengthy specification has not been checked to the extent necessary to determine the presence of all possible minor errors. Applicant's cooperation is requested in correcting any errors of which applicant may become aware in the specification.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

1. Claims 1, 3-13, 15-17, 65, 66, 76, 78-82, 130, 132, and 134-139 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Covert et al. (US Patent No. 5,263,682).

Regarding claim 1, the Covert et al. reference discloses a packing cartridge (Fig. 3) for use in a packing bore (Fig. 3), wherein the packing bore has a cylindrical interior wall and a seat (Fig. 3), the packing cartridge comprising: a generally cylindrical sleeve (including the element that has interior wall 78 and the element 76); a first abutment ring (84); a second abutment ring (52); telescoping structures (Fig. 3); and a retaining ring (90). Note that the telescoping structures include the element having interior wall 78 and the element 66, in which the element having interior wall 78 is **capable of** telescoping and allowing for squeezing of the first abutment ring and the second abutment ring co-axially closer to one another. Also note that the packing cartridge of the Covert et al. reference is **capable of** being used in the environment as claimed in claim 1.

Regarding claims 3 and 76, the Covert et al. reference discloses the telescoping structures having overlapping travel (Col. 4, Lines 23-25). Note that the packing could be crushed if element 76 is over tightened.

Regarding claims 4 and 136, the Covert et al. reference discloses a spring (74) between the first abutment ring (84) and the second abutment ring (52).

Regarding claims 5 and 78, the Covert et al. reference discloses the telescoping structures/first and second sleeve portions having overlapping travel (Col. 4, Lines 23-25).

Regarding claims 6 and 138, the Covert et al. reference discloses a first sleeve portion (76) and a second sleeve portion (element having interior wall 78), and wherein the telescoping structures are a part of the first and second sleeve portions (Fig. 3).

Regarding claim 7, the Covert et al. reference discloses the first sleeve portion is positioned in at least a portion of the packing bore (Fig. 3) and the second sleeve portion having a portion telescopically positioned in at least a portion of the first sleeve (Fig. 3).

Regarding claim 8, the Covert et al. reference discloses the first abutment ring (84) being connected to the first sleeve portion (76) and the second abutment ring (52) being connected to the second sleeve portion (element having interior wall 78).

Regarding claims 9, 12, and 82, the Covert et al. reference discloses the first abutment ring (84) being integrally formed to the first sleeve portion (76) and the second abutment ring (52) being integrally formed to the second sleeve portion (element having interior wall 78).

Regarding claims 10, 66, and 139, the Covert et al. reference discloses a spacer (100) which covers the overlapping travel of the telescoping structures (Fig. 3) wherein the spacer ring is positioned to help prevent seepage of fluid into any clearances between the first sleeve portion and the second sleeve portion (Fig. 3).

Regarding claim 11, the Covert et al. reference discloses the telescoping structures (Fig. 3). Note that the telescoping structures include the element having interior wall 78 and the element 66, in which the element having interior wall 78 is capable of telescoping.

Regarding claims 13 and 130, the Covert et al. reference discloses the retaining ring (90) comprising a resilient ring (Col. 4, Lines 33-39) **adapted to** be positioned in a groove (88).

Regarding claims 15 and 79, the Covert et al. reference discloses packing (including upper element 102 and bottom element 102) between the first and second abutment rings (Fig. 3).

Regarding claims 16 and 80, the Covert et al. reference discloses the packing further comprising a plurality packing elements (including upper element 102 and bottom element 102).

Regarding claims 17 and 81, the Covert et al. reference discloses a packing spacer (middle element 102) positioned between the plurality of packing elements (Fig. 3).

Regarding claim 65, the Covert et al. reference discloses a packing cartridge (Fig. 3) for use in a packing bore (Fig. 3), wherein the packing bore has a cylindrical

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interior wall and a seat (Fig. 3), the packing cartridge comprising: a first element (76) comprising: a first sleeve portion (Fig. 3); and a first abutment ring (84); and a second element (element having interior wall 78) comprising: a second sleeve portion (Fig. 3); and a second abutment ring (52); and a means for axially retaining the first and second sleeve portions together (90); wherein the first sleeve portion and the second sleeve portion and the means for axially retaining are operatively positioned between the first abutment ring and the second abutment ring to allow for squeezing of the first abutment ring and second abutment ring co-axially closer to one another. Note that element 76 can be tightened (Col. 4, Lines 25-30). Also note that the packing cartridge of the Covert et al. reference is **capable of** being used in the environment as claimed in claim 65.

Regarding claim 132, the Covert et al. reference discloses the telescoping structure/means for telescoping and the retaining ring/means for axially retaining being **capable of** allowing a packing (e.g. 94) to be held in a pres-assembled but relaxed condition.

Regarding claim 134, the Covert et al. reference discloses a means for axially retaining the first and second sleeve portions together (e.g. threads); wherein the first and second sleeve portions and the means for axially retaining are **capable of** allowing a packing (e.g. 94) to be held in a pres-assembled but relaxed condition.

Regarding claim 135, the Covert et al. reference discloses a packing cartridge (Fig. 3) for use in a packing bore (Fig. 3), wherein the packing bore has a cylindrical interior wall and a seat (Fig. 3), the packing cartridge comprising: a generally cylindrical

sleeve (including the element that has interior wall 78 and the element 76); a first abutment ring (84); a second abutment ring (52); packing (e.g. 94) positioned between the first abutment ring and the second abutment ring (Fig. 3); telescoping structures (Fig. 3); and a retaining ring (90); wherein the telescoping structures and the retaining ring are **capable of** allowing the packing to be held in a pres-assembled but relaxed condition. Note that the telescoping structures include the element having interior wall 78 and the element 66, in which the element having interior wall 78 is **capable of** telescoping and allowing for squeezing of the first abutment ring and the second abutment ring co-axially closer to one another. Also note that the packing cartridge of the Covert et al. reference is **capable of** being used in the environment as claimed in claim 1.

Regarding claim 137, the Covert et al. reference discloses the telescoping structures having at least sufficient overlapping travel to help maintain the first abutment ring and the second abutment ring in substantial co-axial alignment (Fig. 3) while the spring is anywhere between a substantially relaxed condition and a substantially compressed condition (e.g. Col. 4, Lines 24-39).

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments filed 9/10/09 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

In response to applicant's argument that the Covert et al. reference fails to disclose the amendments to claims 1, 65, and 135, a recitation of the intended use of the claimed invention must result in a structural difference between the claimed invention and the prior art in order to patentably distinguish the claimed invention from the prior art. If the prior art structure is capable of performing the intended use, then it meets the claim.

Conclusion

6. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to GILBERT Y. LEE whose telephone number is (571)272-5894. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 - 4:30, M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jennifer H. Gay can be reached on 571-272-7029. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Jennifer H Gay/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art
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Examiner, Art Unit 3676